

Sub 1 (Amended) A method for communicating between a check processing system and a non-compatible check sorter, comprising:

accessing a MICR buffer for the check sorter, the MICR buffer comprising MICR data retrieved from a check;

generating process buffer data based on the MICR buffer, the process buffer data standardized for a plurality of disparate types of check sorters;

receiving a plurality of feature instructions for the check based on the process buffer data; and

communicating the feature instructions to the check sorter for processing of the check.

2. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, the standardized process buffer data comprising a format compatible with a check sorter compatible with the check processing system.

3. The method of Claim 1, the MICR data comprising an account number for the check.

4. The method of Claim 1, the feature instructions comprising an endorsement instruction operable to control endorsement of the check by the check sorter.

5. The method of Claim 1, the feature instructions comprising a microfilm instruction operable to control recording of a microfilm image of the check by the check sorter.

6. The method of Claim 1, the feature instructions comprising a digital image instruction operable to control recording of a digital image of the check by the check sorter.

7. The method of Claim 6, the digital image instruction further operable to specify at least one of a plurality of digital capture options, the options comprising the recording of a front image of the check and the recording of a back image of the check.

8. The method of Claim 7, the options further comprising a black and white image, a gray scale image, and a color image.

n-2. 9. The method of Claim 1, the feature instructions comprising a pocket selection instruction operable to direct the check to a specified pocket.

10. The method of Claim 1, the non-compatible check sorter comprising an IBM 3890 or 3890/XP series check sorter.

531 7 11. (Amended) A method for emulating a compatible check sorter for a check processing system, comprising:

accessing a MICR buffer for the check sorter, the MICR buffer comprising MICR data retrieved from a check;

AA generating process buffer data based on the MICR buffer, the process buffer data standardized for a plurality of disparate types of check sorters, the standardized process buffer data comprising a format compatible with the compatible check sorter;

receiving a plurality of feature instructions for the check based on the process buffer data; and

~~communicating the feature instructions to the check sorter for processing of the check.~~

12. The method of Claim 11, the MICR data comprising an account number for the check.

13. The method of Claim 11, the feature instructions comprising an endorsement instruction operable to control endorsement of the check by the check sorter.

14. The method of Claim 11, the feature instructions comprising a microfilm instruction operable to control recording of a microfilm image of the check by the check sorter.

15. The method of Claim 11, the feature instructions comprising a digital image instruction operable to control recording of a digital image of the check by the check sorter.

16. The method of Claim 15, the digital image instruction further operable to specify at least one of a plurality of digital capture options, the options comprising the recording of a front image of the check and the recording of a back image of the check.

17. The method of Claim 16, the options further comprising a black and white image, a gray scale image, and a color image.

18. The method of Claim 11, the feature instructions comprising a pocket selection instruction operable to direct the check to a specified pocket.

19. The method of Claim 11, the compatible check sorter comprising an IBM 3890 or 3890/XP series check sorter.

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20. (Amended) A system for handling checks, comprising:
a sorter operable to retrieve MICR data from a plurality of checks;
an emulator coupled to the sorter, the emulator operable to access the MICR data, to generate process buffer data based on the MICR data, the process buffer data standardized for a plurality of disparate types of check sorters, and to generate a plurality of feature instructions for each check based on the process buffer data;
a check processing system coupled to the emulator, the check processing system operable to receive the process buffer data from the emulator; and
the emulator further operable to communicate the feature instructions to the sorter, the sorter further operable to process the checks based on the feature instructions.

21. (Amended) The system of Claim 20, the standardized process buffer data comprising a format compatible with a check sorter compatible with the check processing system.

22. The system of Claim 20, the MICR data comprising an account number for the check.

23. The system of Claim 20, the feature instructions comprising an endorsement instruction operable to control endorsement of the check by the check sorter.

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24. The system of Claim 20, the feature instructions comprising a microfilm instruction operable to control recording of a microfilm image of the check by the check sorter.

25. The system of Claim 20, the feature instructions comprising a digital image instruction operable to control recording of a digital image of the check by the check sorter.

26. The system of Claim 25, the digital image instruction further operable to specify at least one of a plurality of digital capture options, the options comprising the recording of a front image of the check and the recording of a back image of the check.

27. The system of Claim 26, the options further comprising a black and white image, a gray scale image, and a color image.

28. The system of Claim 20, the feature instructions comprising a pocket selection instruction operable to direct the check to a specified pocket.

29. (Amended) The system of Claim 20, wherein the check processing system is non-compatible with the check sorter.

30. The system of Claim 29, the check processing system compatible with an IBM 3890 or 3890/XP series check sorter.

31. **(Amended)** A system for communicating between a check processing system and a non-compatible check sorter, comprising:

logic stored on at least one computer-processable medium;

the logic operable to access a MICR buffer for the check sorter, the MICR buffer comprising MICR data retrieved from a check, to generate process buffer data based on the MICR buffer, the process buffer data standardized for a plurality of disparate types of check sorters, to generate a plurality of feature instructions for the check based on the process buffer data, and to communicate the feature instructions to the check sorter for processing of the check.

32. **(Amended)** The system of Claim 31, the standardized process buffer data comprising a format compatible with a check sorter compatible with the check processing system.

33. The system of Claim 31, the MICR data comprising an account number for the check.

34. The system of Claim 31, the feature instructions comprising an endorsement instruction operable to control endorsement of the check by the check sorter.

35. The system of Claim 31, the feature instructions comprising a microfilm instruction operable to control recording of a microfilm image of the check by the check sorter.

36. The system of Claim 31, the feature instructions comprising a digital image instruction operable to control recording of a digital image of the check by the check sorter.

37. The system of Claim 36, the digital image instruction further operable to specify at least one of a plurality of digital capture options, the options comprising the recording of a front image of the check and the recording of a back image of the check.

38. The system of Claim 37, the options further comprising a black and white image, a gray scale image, and a color image.

39. The system of Claim 31, the feature instructions comprising a pocket selection instruction operable to direct the check to a specified pocket.

40. The system of Claim 31, the non-compatible check sorter comprising an IBM 3890 or 3890/XP series check sorter.

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41. (Amended) A system for emulating a compatible check sorter for a check processing system, comprising
logic stored on at least one computer-processable medium;
the logic operable to access a MICR buffer for the check sorter, the MICR buffer comprising MICR data retrieved from a check, to generate process buffer data based on the MICR buffer, the process buffer data standardized for a plurality of disparate types of check sorters, the standardized process buffer data comprising a format compatible with the compatible check sorter, to generate a plurality of feature instructions for the check based on the process buffer data, and to communicate the feature instructions to the check sorter for processing of the check. 6/2/2

42. (Amended) The system of Claim 41, the standardized process buffer data comprising a format compatible with a check sorter compatible with the check processing system.

43. The system of Claim 41, the MICR data comprising an account number for the check.

44. The system of Claim 41, the feature instructions comprising an endorsement instruction operable to control endorsement of the check by the check sorter.

45. The system of Claim 41, the feature instructions comprising a microfilm instruction operable to control recording of a microfilm image of the check by the check sorter. n.e.

46. The system of Claim 41, the feature instructions comprising a digital image instruction operable to control recording of a digital image of the check by the check sorter.

47. The system of Claim 46, the digital image instruction further operable to specify at least one of a plurality of digital capture options, the options comprising the recording of a front image of the check and the recording of a back image of the check.

48. The system of Claim 47, the options further comprising a black and white image, a gray scale image, and a color image.

49. The system of Claim 41, the feature instructions comprising a pocket selection instruction operable to direct the check to a specified pocket.

50. The system of Claim 41, the non-compatible check sorter comprising an IBM 3890 or 3890/XP series check sorter.

51. A check sorter, comprising:
a MICR reader operable to read check information from a check processed by the sorter;
a digital imaging system operable to image a front and a back of the check processed by the sorter; and
a controller responsive to instructions based on the check information, the controller operable to control the digital imaging system to selectively image one or more of the front and the back of the check.

52. The check sorter of Claim 51, the controller further operable to control the digital imaging system to image the front of the check in black and white, gray scale or color.

53. The check sorter of Claim 51, the controller further operable to control the digital imaging system to image the back of the check in black and white, gray scale or color.

54. A method for imaging a check during check sorting operations, comprising:
reading check information from the check;
determining an imaging option based on the check information, the imaging options comprising no image, a front image, a back image, and a front and back image; and
selectively imaging the check based on the imaging option.

55. The method of Claim 54, further comprising:
determining an imaging type based on the check information, the imaging types comprising black and white, gray scale, and color; and
imaging the check based on the imaging type.